It is the policy of the Government to allow the exports of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise the food security system. For the current year a ceiling 10 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat and 5 lakh tonnes durum wheat has been released for exports. Further, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been authorised to export/sell for exports 5 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine varieties of rice and 5 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat from the public stocks against the carry-over commitment made in 1995-96. However, in case of wheat the quantity to be exported/sold for exports by FCI would be within the overall ceiling of exports of wheat.

(c) and (d) The current Export and Import Policy provisions on export of processed food items and other agricultural produce for which ceilings are notified are as under

(i) Wheat Products – Export allowed against quantitative ceilings and minimum export price as may be notified by DGFT from time to time and Registration-cum-allocation Certificates (RCACs) issued by APEDA.

(ii) Coarse Grains [Grains and flour of Barley, Maize, Bazra, Ragi, Jowar (excluding Hybrid Jowar grown as Khariff crop.)] – Exports allowed against quantitative ceilings as may be notified by DGFT and RCACs issued by APEDA.

(iii) Pulses-Exports of pulses including processed pulses are permitted under licence.

(iv) Milk & Milk Products [Power milk (skimmed or full cream) whole and infant milk food, pure milk ghee, and butter, except when exported as branded products in consumer packs, not exceeding 5 Kgs. in weight, for which these conditions shall not apply.]–Exports allowed against Quantitative ceilings as may be notified by DGFT and RCACs issued by APEDA.

(v) Sugar–(i) Prior to 13.02.1997, exports allowed subject to the provisions of the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958-Exports allowed subject to quantitative ceilings issued by Ministry of Food.

(ii) On or after 13.02.1997, exports allowed against quantitative ceilings to be notified by DGFT and RCACs issued by APEDA.

(vi) Castor Seeds – Exports permitted under licence.

For the year 1996-97 :-

(i) A ceiling of 1.50 lakh metric tonnes of wheat products has been released for exports during the period 01.10.1996 to 31.03.1997.

(ii) A ceiling of 1 lakh metric tonnes of coarse grains has been released for exports.

(iii) A ceiling of 10,000 metric tonnes of pulses has been released for exports.

(iv) a ceiling of 10,000 metric tonnes of Milk powder (skimmed) or full cream)/whole or infant Milk Food has been released. A ceiling of 2,000 metric tonnes of milk ghee and butter has been released.

(v) A ceiling of 6.50 lakh metric tonnes of sugar has been released for exports.

(vi) A ceiling of 75,000 metric tonnes of castor seeds has been released for exports.

*[Translation]*

**Manufacturing of Cigarettes**

4266. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Public and Private Sector companies which are manufacturing cigarettes in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the names of Multinational Companies which have been permitted by the Government to set up cigarette manufacturing units of their popular brands in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The names of the cigarette manufacturing units in the organised sector in the country, state-wise, are given in the Statement attached.

(b) Manufacture of cigarettes attracts compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation), Act, 1951. Since the announcement of the New Industrial Policy, 1991, following firms have been granted industrial licences for the manufacture of cigarettes :-

1. M/s. Laxmi Distributors Ltd., Bhilai, Madhya Pradesh.

2. M/s. Modi RJR Ltd., New Delhi. (a joint venture company between R.J. Reynold Tabacco International S.A., Switzerland and M/s. Modipon Ltd., U.P.). The Unit which is located in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, is yet to report commencementt of production.

**Statement**

| Sl.No. | Name of Unit |
|---|---|
| **Andhra Pradesh** | |
| 1. | M/s. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| 2. | M/s. National Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| 3. | M/s. Universal Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| 4. | M/s. Nava Bharat Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| **Bihar** | |
| 1. | M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. |
| **Gujarat** | |
| 1. | M/s. Golden Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| **Jammu and Kashmir** | |
| 1. | M/s. J&K Cigarettes Ltd. |
| **Karnataka** | |
| 1. | M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. |
| **Maharashtra** | |
| 1. | M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Ltd. |
| 2. | M/s. Golden Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| 3. | M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. |
| 4. | M/s. Crown Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| 5. | M/s. Masters Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| **Tamilnadu** | |
| 1. | M/s. Asia Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| 2. | M/s. Asia Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| **Uttar Pradesh** | |
| 1. | M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. |
| 2. | M/s. International Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| **West Bengal** | |
| 1. | M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. |
| 2. | M/s. National Tobacco Co. Ltd. |
| **Madhya Pradesh** | |
| 1. | M/s. Laxmi Distributors Ltd. |

*[English]*

**Export of Tobacco to Russia and CIS Countries**

4267. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra and Karnataka Tobacco Farmers' Federation has urged the Government to remove the hurdles in the debt repayment mechanism to Russia and CIS countries and increase the tobacco exports to these countries to a minimum of 30 billion kilogrames this year;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the exports of tobacco to Russia and CIS countries during 1996-97 and 1997-98; if so, the action

(c) whether any preliminary negotiations have been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed as to taken to boost the exports of tobacco to Russia and CIS States;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka Tobacco Farmers Federation in their representation have suggested for :

(i) Enhancement of exports quota to Russia under the debt repayment from 20,000 to 30,000 metric tonnes and (ii) for removal of hurdles in exports under the debt repayment route.

(b) to (e) Under a bilateral perspective plan agreement, the Russian Government allocates rupee repayment funds to facilitate import of Tobacco upto 20,000 metric tonnes from India each year. The perspective Plan is at present operational for the period 1995-97. Some of the steps taken/being taken to assist farmers and to enhance exports includes :

(i) Exploring possibilities of entering into long term supply contracts with the tobacco processing plants in Russia.

(Ii) Persuading Russian authorities through bilateral discussions to fully utilise the funds allocated under the rupee repayment funds for purchase of tobacco from India.

(iii) Facilitating contacts between importers from Russia and others CIS countries with Indian tobacco manufacturers and exporters through visit of trade delegations.

(iv) Permitting stock and sales of tobacco in CIS